Dear Paul, 5/6/85

I've delayed responding to your 4/25 until I felt like going to the basement and retrieving and rereading 89-43-2381 and all of the records involved in the one misused in the Anderson column but I've not felt up to it and don't today. Recently I've been more unsteady and tired and I'm that way now. I take your description of the cited record, having no recollection of it, and if that is the way you want to use it I don't object and won't look it up again. However, I have the strongest possible objections to your wild and really sick interpretation, even from the column, of that record. I think I have a copy in my office and if I do I'll enclose it.

Is there nothing for you except Lifton's untenable and quite hurtful fabrication? Did you check out any of the things of which I informed you? Are all of you conspiracy theorists so lustful for a solution that you have abandoned your intelligences? Is there no fact, no reason that intrudes?

The context of the LBJ desire for Hoover to do a book is as explicit in all the records as could be expected and there is not only no reference to Lifton, there is not even what you could contort into a hint. It is, quite explicitly, to respond to the books, as the date alone should have indicated to you. You also should recall that LBJ asked JEH for backgrounds on us fof that has been disclosed.

You refer to a single "Lifton hypothesis" that then was "floating around" among critics. Are you that ashamed of the others, which he articulated? The Brown & Root hypothesis? The papier mache tree hypothesis? No Jean Valjean theory? And what about his representation as other than a theory that the week before the assassination LBJ and Dulles - no, make it LBJ and Rusk - met clandestinely around Texas to plot the crime? If LBJ was privy to Lifton's theories and sufficiently moved by them do you think he'd have ignored the one- no, make that two - involving him?

I address you with vigor in the hope of getting through to you and getting you to think instead of reacting in hope and longing, perhaps from emotion. This kind of think, as you should have observed in disclosed records, has been more hurtful to us than any one other thing. And the more attention it gets, the more it hurts. All the official finkery has to do is grab onto one mistake and puff it up. And at each and every step all the basics of Lifton's published theory is completely untenable and to his knowledge was when he wrote it. I asked him about but one the last time he phoned, how his time reconstruction permitted no time for the taking of the Xrays and pix. He said there was plenty of time. I asked how and of all thinks, he replied that according to the radiologist they didn't cut the body until at least 10 p.m. No work on the corpse before then!

In your interest, but without expectation of reaching you when you can stretch as you now do to accredit the unspeakable Lifton, and from recollection only, which I'm sure will not be inclusive, I want you to address some facts as opposed to this particular Lifton concoction: McHugh is not the only JFK person who was on AF1 in Dallas and with the corpse when LBJ was sworn in, so using him alone is wrong and deliberately dishonest. (And he has refuted Lifton besides.) Are all those many others also conspirators? Bobby Kennedy was on the plane before any other door was or could have been opened and he rushed to the corpse. Is he also a conspirator? There were thousands of people close to and looking at the off side of the plane at Andrews when Lifton alleges the corpse was removed there. Were all those alleged conspirators and the corpse invisible to the thousands looking on through the closeby fense, chain-link? You know that the second chopper carried the military honor guard and the WH one took LBJ away, so explain the use of the second chopped to spirit the corppe to Walter Reed when it in fact went to Bethesda, as the MWW records he and I got both leave without question. He cites Manchester but omits what Manchester reported, that the second ambulance was dispatched with a cardiologist in fear that LBJ might have another heart attack. And although there is not even acceptable fiction to his second

ambulance-Walter Reed kidnapping theory, please tell me how it got through the back gate that was closed, locked and without an attendant as one of the emergency security provision instituted as soon as it was known that the corpse was going there. Which I suppose was while AF1 was still airborn.

There is more sense to a flat-world theory than to Lifton's yet you remain hungup on it, without once confronting any fact. It has more self-destructs built in than I've noted above, but until you can destroy each of the above you'll be well advised, if you have any regard for your personal reputation, to forget theories and stick to facts.

As best I recall I've had only two reasons for asking you not to use what I've sent. One is the expectation of being able to carry something further and the other is to diminish the harm to us all from utter nonsense. Trying to wipe out all the fact to ensnrine the evil Lifton is worse than nonsense, but if you can bring yourself to do it, do anything you want with the enclosed copy that, I repeat, is only part of what was disclosed. I made this copy from the copy of the copy I sent to Les, and he was not interested in the rest. However, you ought remember very well that as of the time in question there was e ormous attention to what Epstein and I had said, beginning with a major Post story. There were major reviews of what Epstein said about the autopsy (including his theory that is at least as good as any of Lifton's, that it was rewritten in January!)and I was on talk shows. There is also the press release with which all of this silliness of a Hoover book ended, and you have that. You can't really torture it into anything Liftonian, from papier mache trees and Brown & Root tunnels to open skies for nonexisting choppers and magic ambulances to go through strong and locked gates.

Is it not enough for you that the President of the United States (who became President only via this assassination) wanted his FBI Director to write a book responding to the first critical books? You would diminish <u>this</u> to make something of that drek Lifton?

Paul, Paul, stand back and examine into your state of mind in all of this and some that preceeded it. Does this represent the working of your mind?

More pleasant is what would, I'm sure, have been enjoyable to your first girl, our adventure in getting just-hatched mallard ducklings out of the swimming pool. When the local dogs do not break up the duck's nest she takes her duckling to the pool. Not the pond, from which they can get out easily, but over a concrete wall then cannot. From prior experience I know what to do. I have a large painted sheet of plywood that I must cover with something not slick. We put boards in the pool, with corn on those boards, they can get out of the water then when they must, and they eat, and today, for the first time, they left without being driven out. Which is not all that easy when they are in 800 square feet of water and swim well at birth. And follow mama away from people. In time their sharp toenails told them they wouldn't slip on the large towel over the plywood and they followed mama out. Now she'll take them to the stream, where they'll find natural food and go downhill with it, to the large pond in Frederick where they convene and are fed until they migrate again. (Some don't migrate but our pair does, to return every spring.) Good thing I had no other work to do on this today! Which reminds me: sunbathing is not healthy. I've had one cancerous growth removed, checkup up today, many precancerous burned off, one tricky new one to watch, and the doctor says it is from the <u>accumulation</u> of exposure to the sun. Takes years to catch up sometimes, so start being careful now!

Best,

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

October 10, 1966

MR. TOLSON:

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY;
MEETING WITH JUSTICE FORTAS, 2 p.m. 10/7/66
AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR TO WRITE BOOK

I saw Justice Fortas at 2:45 p.m. this afternoon at his chambers at the Supreme Court Building. Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I outlined to Justice Fortas the many reasons why the Director could not accede to the President's and Justice Fortas' request that a lengthy article, series of articles or book be written by the Director concerning captioned matter. I told Justice Fortas the Director wanted to be of all possible assistance to the President and him, however, in this particular instance the Director would appreciate consideration be given to the above reasons why it would not be logical for him to undertake this project.

Without any hesitation, Justice Fortas told me he agreed with the Director. He stated he could not indicate this previously, however, he had argued with the President that it was not logical for the Director to prepare this book inasmuch as the Director in doing so would necessarily have to substantiate the investigative efforts of many other agencies other than those of the FBI.

Justice Fortas indicated he had no argument whatsoever with the Director's thoughts. In reply, I told him the Director had suggested that Chief Justice Warren might undertake such a project inasmuch as he, the Chief Justice, would be acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Warren Commission rather than in the capacity of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Justice Fortas stated he doubted Chief Justice Warren would agree to this assumption. He added, however, that Lee Rankin, the Chief Counsel of the Warren Commission, had agreed to write a book; however, Rankin's book would not be ready for publication for approximately one year.

Justice Fortas stated he and the President would deeply appreciate the Director giving consideration to issuing a statement or writing one brief article restricted solely to the controversy

CDD:hmm
(2)
1 - DeLoach

CONTINUED - OVER

34

Mr. Tolson

MEMO TO: MR. TOLSON

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY;
MEETING WITH JUSTICE FORTAS, 2 p.m. 10/7/66
AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR TO WRITE BOOK

raised by critics with respect to the differences as shown in the autopsy between the FBI reports and the final conclusion of the Warren Commission. I told Justice Fortas this would be brought to the Director's attention and I felt certain the Director would be agreeable to the issuance of a statement in this regard so long as the statement pertains to this one point.

I brought up the subject of Harold Reis with Justice Fortas. After outlining to him the fact that Reis was undoubtedly responsible for any misunderstanding which had arisen between the Department and the FBI, Justice Fortas interrupted me and said he had known Reis for many years and disliked him intensely ever since he, Justice Fortas, had represented the Puerto Rican Government in dealings for the United States. He stated Reis had stuck a knife in his back on more than one occasion. Justice Fortas stated in one instance he had told former Attorney General Katzenbach in President Johnson's presence of the fact that Reis had a very brazen, undesirable personality and that Katzenbach should get rid of him. Fortas asked me to tell this fact to Ramsey Clark the next time I see Clark. I will, of course, do that this afternoon.

Pursuant to the Director's instructions, we are preparing a statement in line with the President's and Justice Fortas' request.

Respectfully,

C. D. DeLoach

Let me see it.

Sent through Wash. Field